

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/824,430

Examiner

Susanna M. Diaz

Applicant(s)

JACKSON ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Examiner's amendment agreed to on February 9, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-7, 10, 11 and 13-15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/19/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Susanna Diaz
SUSANNA M. DIAZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU3694

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jeffrey M. Chamberlain (Reg. No. 55,044) on February 9, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

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5. (Currently Amended) A method for determining an integrated logistic support (ILS) date at which a particular ship upgrade can proceed, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a change document in response to a perceived problem associated with a particular type of equipment, for correcting the perceived problem, said change document comprising a description of the problem, an identification of the system impacted, a solution to the perceived problem, an estimated cost of the solution, drawings which must be changed, and proposed vendors for the various parts associated with the solution;

associating said change document with those ships having said particular type of equipment;

associating the particular ship upgrade with the change document for that that particular ship upgrade;

determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document;

selecting a most remote one of the determined arrival dates as the ILS date; and

generating an output indicating whether work can begin on the particular ship on the specified ILS date;

wherein said step of determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document includes the steps of:

determining if (a) a Tailored Repairable Items List is required, (b) training is required to implement the alteration of the ship, (c) an Allowance Parts List is required, (d)

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technical manuals are required, (e) Preventive Maintenance Schedule and Maintenance Requirement Cards are required, (f) a shipyard Installation and Checkout Spares List is required, (g) an Alteration Installation and Checkout Spares List is required, (h) a Coordinated Shore Base Materiel Allowance List is required, (i) Support and Test Equipment is required, (j) Maintenance Assist Modules are required, (k) On-Board Allowance is required, and (l) alteration instructions are required.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
obtaining a promised delivery date for delivering an upgrade parts kit; and
comparing the promised delivery date with a selected starting date for said ship upgrade.
7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of generating a change document is performed by engineering personnel.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of associating said change document with those ships having said particular type of equipment includes the step of determining whether a particular class of ship is affected.
11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of associating the particular ship upgrade with the change document for that that particular ship upgrade includes the step of assignment of an alteration number representing a particular alteration of a particular ship.

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12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document includes the steps of:

determining whether alteration parts kits are required; and

if alteration parts kits are required, determining the promised delivery date for those not yet arrived.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for determining an integrated logistic support (ILS) date at which a particular ship upgrade can proceed, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a change document, for correcting a perceived problem associated with a particular type of equipment, said change document comprising a description of the problem, an identification of the system impacted, a solution to the perceived problem, an estimated cost of the solution, drawings which must be changed, and proposed vendors for the various parts associated with the solution;

associating said change document with those ships having said particular type of equipment;

associating the particular ship upgrade with the change document for that that particular ship upgrade;

determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document;

selecting a most remote one of the determined arrival dates as the ILS date;

comparing the ILS date with a selected starting date for the ship upgrade; and

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generating an output indicating whether work can begin on the particular ship on the specified ILS date;

wherein said step of determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document includes the steps of:

determining if (a) a Tailored Repairable Items List is required, (b) training is required to implement the alteration of the ship, (c) an Allowance Parts List is required, (d) technical manuals are required, (e) Preventive Maintenance Schedule and Maintenance Requirement Cards are required, (f) a shipyard Installation and Checkout Spares List is required, (g) an Alteration Installation and Checkout Spares List is required, (h) a Coordinated Shore Base Materiel Allowance List is required, (i) Support and Test Equipment is required, (j) Maintenance Assist Modules are required, (k) On-Board Allowance is required, and (l) alteration instructions are required.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
- obtaining a promised delivery date for delivering an upgrade parts kit; and
 - comparing the promised delivery date with the selected starting date.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 5-7, 10, 11, and 13-15 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's admitted prior art (as disclosed in the "Background of the Invention" on pages 1-5 of Applicant's specification) discloses much of the claimed invention as it relates to the general process of generating a change document in response to a

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perceived problem for ship equipment, associating the change documents with ships having the type of equipment in question, and upgrading these ships' manuals accordingly in time for the arrival of elements needed to fix and/or upgrade the equipment. Abdel-Malek et al. (US 2005/0171661), Myers Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,959,268), Krueger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,868,387), and Cornett et al. (EP 0467257 A2) address various approaches for replacing parts from a list of parts related to maintained equipment and then revising any associated user manuals accordingly. However, none of the prior art teaches or suggests that the step of determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document includes all of the steps of determining if (a) a Tailored Repairable Items List is required, (b) training is required to implement the alteration of the ship, (c) an Allowance Parts List is required, (d) technical manuals are required, (e) Preventive Maintenance Schedule and Maintenance Requirement Cards are required, (f) a shipyard Installation and Checkout Spares List is required, (g) an Alteration Installation and Checkout Spares List is required, (h) a Coordinated Shore Base Materiel Allowance List is required, (i) Support and Test Equipment is required, (j) Maintenance Assist Modules are required, (k) On-Board Allowance is required, and (l) alteration instructions are required. This combination of features is recited in claims 5-7, 10, 11, and 13-15; therefore, claims 5-7, 10, 11, and 13-15 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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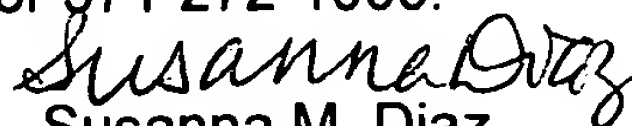
accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susanna M. Diaz whose telephone number is (571) 272-6733. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Susanna M. Diaz
Primary Examiner
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February 19, 2007